

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Graeme John Proudler  
Assignee: Hewlett-Packard Development Company L.P.  
Title: Method and Apparatus for Managing a Hierarchy of Nodes  
Serial No.: 10/688,397 Conf. No. 1309  
Examiner: Randal Moran Group Art Unit: 2435  
Docket No.: 82170341 Filing Date: October 16, 2003

December 22, 2011

Mail Stop RCE  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION  
WITH REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)**

Dear Sir:

This Response, which follows the Final Office Action dated September 5, 2007 and the Decision on Appeal dated October 27, 2011, includes:

An amendment of the claims for further examination; and

Remarks offered in reply to the rejections of the prior claims; and is accompanied by:

A Request for Continued Examination.